ARE YOU...

...THE KING OF THE DEAD?

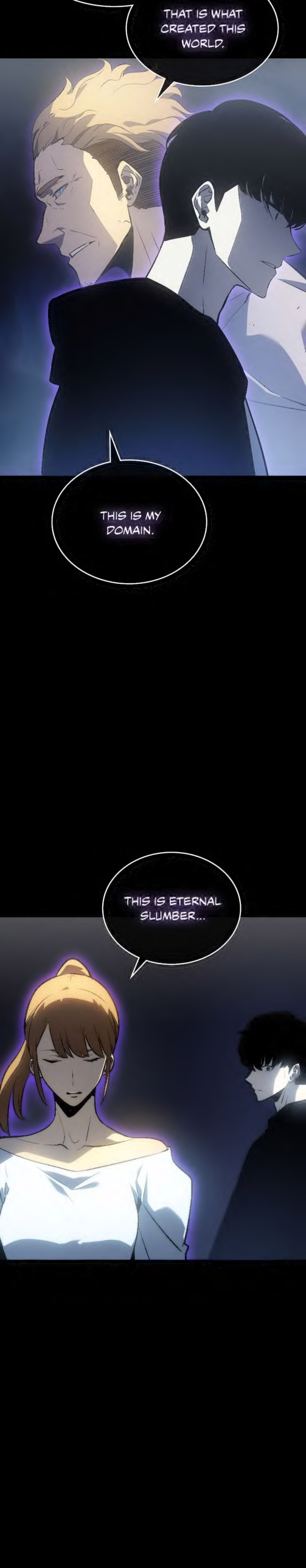
Solo Leveling

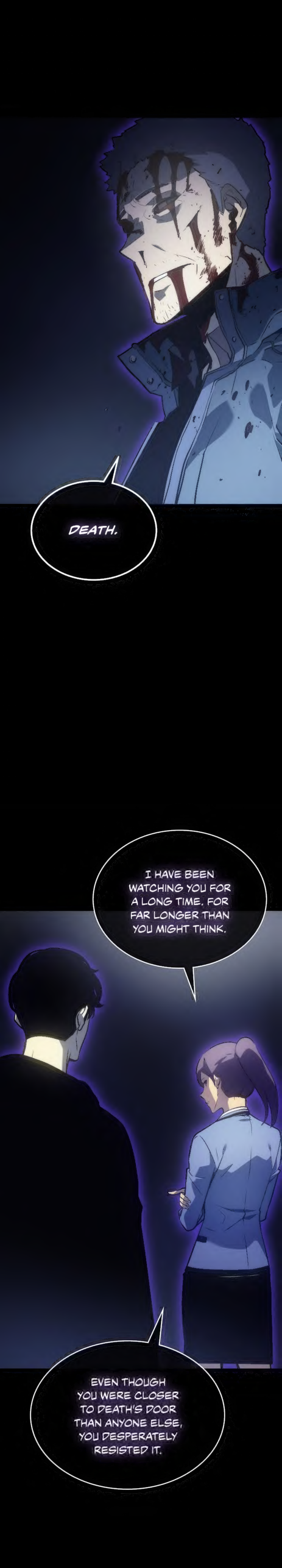
Art · DUBU(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel · Chugong
Story · h-goon

YOU COULD LIVE IN THIS WORLD FOREVER IF YOU WANTED TO.

IT WOULD BE LIKE NEVER WAKING UP FROM A HAPPY DREAM.

YOU WANT ME TO REMAIN TRAPPED IN THIS ILLUSION YOU CREATED?
NO, I AM NOT THE CREATOR OF THIS WORLD.
YOU ARE.
I CREATED THIS WORLD?
YOUR DESIRE TO CORRECT YOUR MISTAKES, COMBINED WITH MY POWER...


THAT IS WHAT CREATED THIS WORLD.
THIS IS MY DOMAIN.
THIS IS ETERNAL SLUMBER...


DEATH.
I HAVE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR A LONG TIME. FOR FAR LONGER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE CLOSER TO DEATH'S DOOR THAN ANYONE ELSE, YOU DESPERATELY RESISTED IT.

I AM THE RECORD OF YOUR STRUGGLES, THE EVIDENCE OF YOUR RESISTANCE, AND THE REWARD FOR YOUR PAIN.
I AM ALSO DEATH, ETERNAL SLUMBER, AND TERROR.

SWISH
I AM...

...YOU.

WITHIN MY DOMAIN, YOU ARE FREE TO DO AS YOU PLEASE.
SWISH

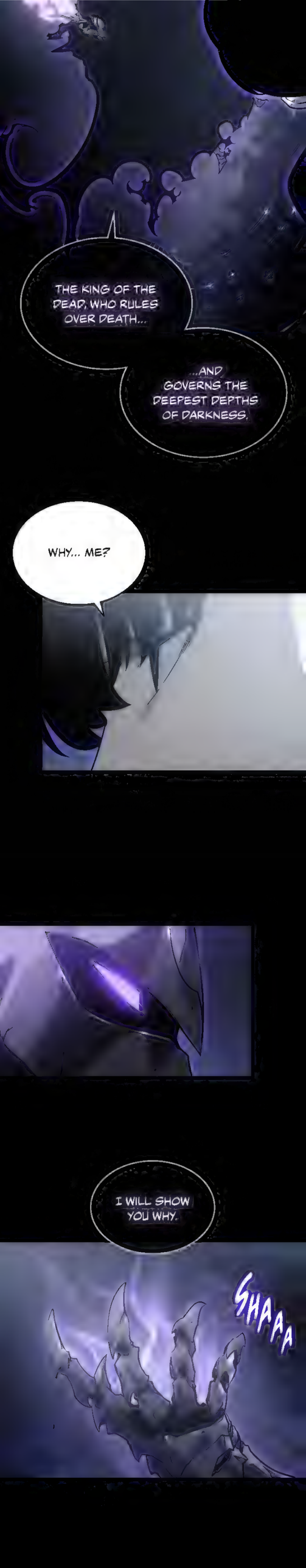
YOU MAY TURN ANYTHING THAT IS A PART OF MY DOMAIN INTO YOURS...
SWOOSH

...AND ABSORB MY POWERS FROM THEM.
WITHER
ALTHOUGH THIS IS ONLY POSSIBLE WITHIN YOUR OWN DOMAIN,
YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO CREATE, DESTROY, AND CHANGE THE WORLD...

IT'S AN OMNIPOTENT POWER.
SO YOU'RE SAYING WE POSSESS THE SAME POWER?

I HAVE WAITED A LONG TIME TO MEET YOU.

I AM THE MONARCH OF SHADOWS.


THE KING OF THE DEAD, WHO RULES OVER DEATH...
...AND GOVERNS THE DEEPEST DEPTHS OF DARKNESS.
WHY... ME?
I WILL SHOW YOU WHY.
SHAAA

I WILL SHOW YOU OUR BEGINNING AND END...
...AS WELL AS YOUR BEGINNING.

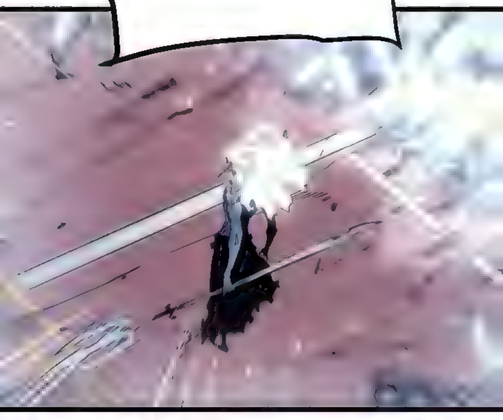
SNIFF
SNIFF
HE HAS DEFINITELY STOPPED BREATHING.

HEY... I CAN'T FEEL SUNG JINWOO'S PRESENCE ANYMORE. IT DISAPPEARED.
WHAT HAPPENED?
W, WELL...

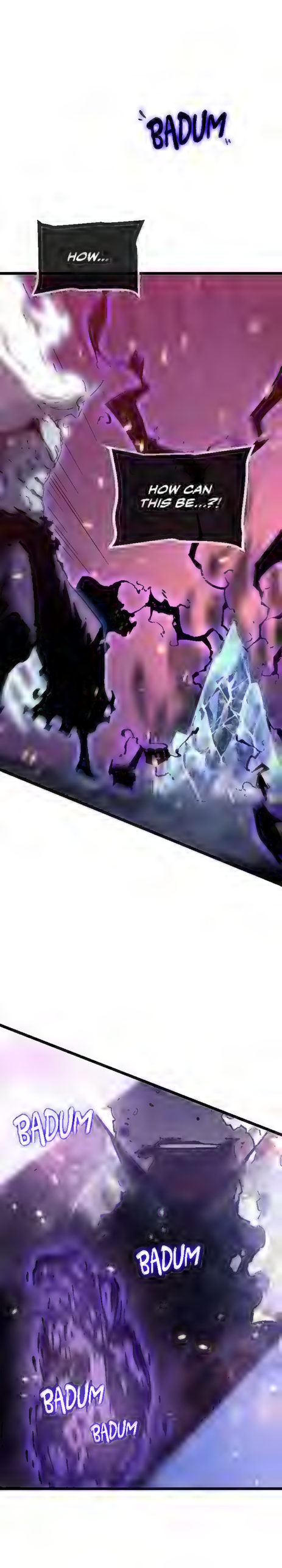
IMPOSSIBLE...
THAT MEANS THERE'S NOBODY TO STOP THOSE BEASTS...
DAMN IT, I SHOULDN'T HAVE LISTENED TO THAT GUY!
MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO LATE. WE MIGHT STILL HAVE A CHANCE AT STOPPING THEM IF WE SHELL THEM...!
NO, WE *HAVE* TO STOP THEM!
EVEN THE NATIONAL LEVEL HUNTERS HAVE FAILED, SO THERE'S NO GOING BACK NOW!
PREPARE TO FIRE, EVERYONE!

ON MY SIGNAL!

OUR TARGET IS THE BEAST THAT LOOKS LIKE AN ICE ELF!



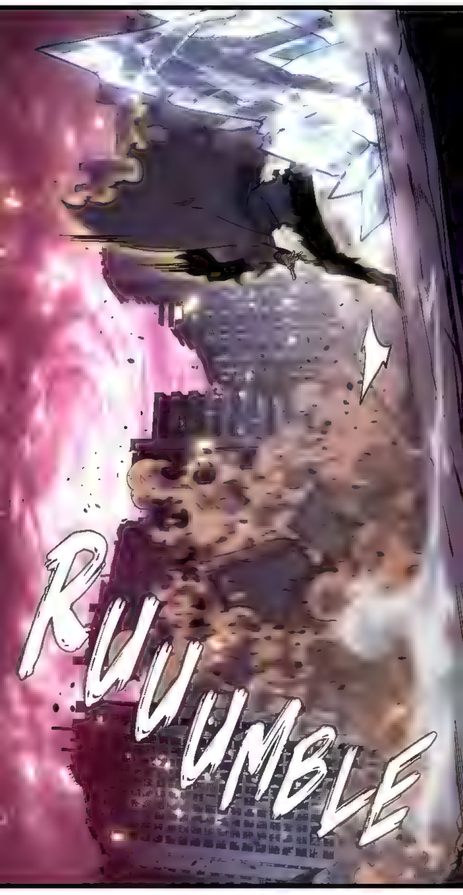
BADUM


BADUM
HOW...
HOW CAN THIS BE...?!
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM
BADUM

WAIT, DON'T TELL ME...!
NO, THAT CANNOT HAPPEN.
WE CANNOT HAVE THE TRUE KING DESCEND AFTER THE FAKE ONE HAS DIED! WE MUST STOP THAT FROM HAPPENING AT ALL COSTS!

WHAM

THWACK
KA
BOOM


RUUMBLE

FROM HERE ON OUT,

NOBODY

IS TO LAY A
FINGER ON
THIS CHILD.

IN ANOTHER WORLD,

THERE WAS LIGHT AND [redacted] AT A TIME WHEN NOTHING ELSE EXISTED.

THE "ABSOLUTE BEING" SPLIT THE LIGHT TO CREATE MESSENGERS OF GOD,

AND SPLIT THE DARKNESS TO CREATE THE EIGHT MONARCHS.

THE MONARCHS WHO

THE WORLD...

...AND THE MESSENGERS WHO WERE BORN TO MAINTAIN IT... KILLED EACH OTHER'S SOLDIERS TO NO END.

EXHAUSTED BY THE NEVER-ENDING WAR,

THE GREATEST FRAGMENT OF BRILLIANT LIGHT ASKED THE ABSOLUTE BEING...

OH, ABSOLUTE BEING. WHY HAVE YOU NOT HELPED YOUR FAITHFUL SUBJECTS?

CAN YOU NOT HEAR THE SCREAMS OF THE COUNTLESS SOLDIERS WHO HAVE DIED IN YOUR HONOR?
PLEASE LEND US THE STRENGTH TO ERADICATE OUR FOES.
WE SHALL BEHEAD THEM AND OFFER YOU THEIR HEADS AS TRIBUTE.

BUT THE ABSOLUTE BEING DID NOT RESPOND.

THAT IS WHEN THE FRAGMENTS OF BRILLIANT LIGHT REALIZED THAT...

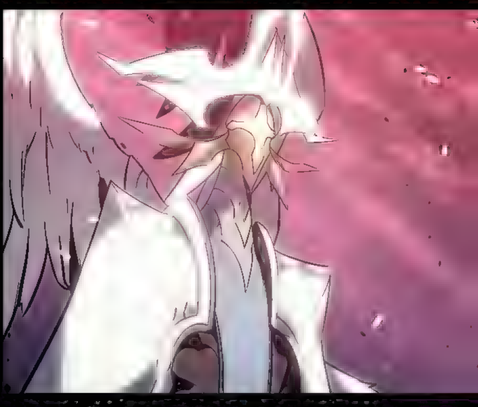
...THEIR BATTLE AGAINST THE MONARCHS WAS NOTHING BUT A SOURCE OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE ABSOLUTE BEING...

...AND THAT THE ABSOLUTE BEING DID NOT WANT THE WAR TO END.

THOU SHALL WORSHIP GOD.
EVERYONE WORSHIPPED THE ABSOLUTE BEING.
THOU SHALL PRAISE GOD.
EVERYONE BELLOWED BATTLE CRIES FOR THE ABSOLUTE BEING.
THOU SHALL PROVE THY FAITH.
EVERYONE SWORE ALLEGIANCE TO THE ABSOLUTE BEING WITH THEIR BLOOD AND LIFE.
THEY ALL ABIDED BY THE COMMANDMENTS UNTIL NOW.

THOSE WHO FAIL TO OBEY THESE COMMANDMENTS SHALL NOT BE SPARED.

BUT THE NUMBER OF LIVES THAT WERE LOST VASTLY OUTNUMBERED THOSE WHO OVERCAME DEATH.



DEATH AWAITED EVEN THOSE WHO ABIDED BY THE COMMANDMENTS.

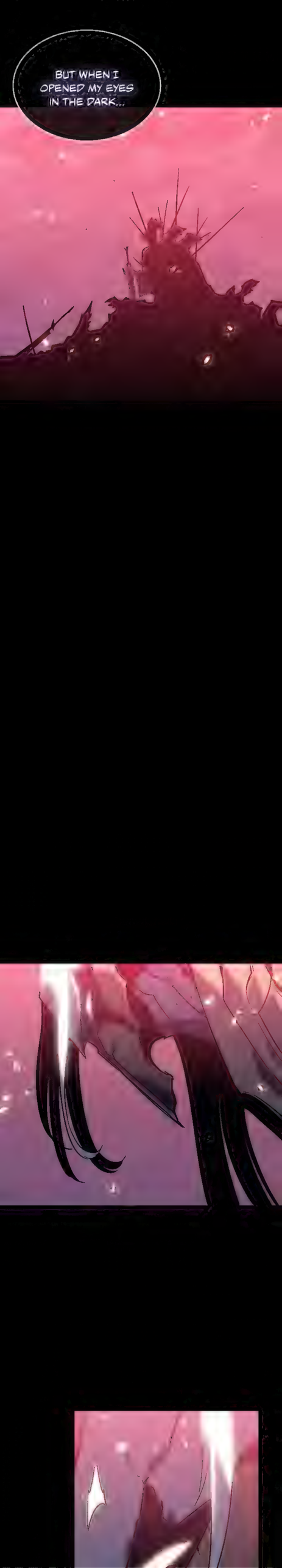
THE WAR WILL NEVER END AS LONG AS THE ABSOLUTE BEING EXISTS.
THE FRAGMENTS OF BRILLIANT LIGHT DREW THEIR SWORDS TO PUT AN END TO THE MEANINGLESS FIGHT.
IT WAS A REBELLION.

POINT
THAT IS MY FORMER SELF.
I WAS THE ONLY MESSENGER OF GOD WHO STOOD UP AGAINST THE REBELS.

BUT MY ARMY WAS A PITIFUL SIGHT.

THEY WERE NO MATCH FOR THE ALLIED MESSENGERS.

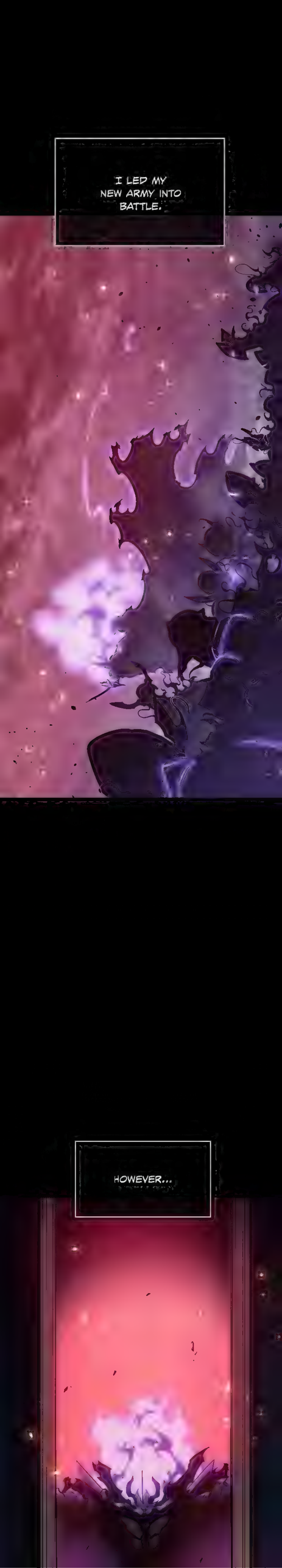
I THOUGHT THE END HAD COME.


BUT WHEN I OPENED MY EYES IN THE DARK...

...I LEARNED THAT THE ABSOLUTE BEING HAD HIDDEN A POWER WITHIN ME.
FSHHH

ARISE.

FSHH
FSHH
FLAP
SHAAA


I LED MY NEW ARMY INTO BATTLE.
HOWEVER...

...BY THE TIME I RETURNED, EVERYTHING WAS ALREADY OVER.

To Be Continued...

Translator: JJoelle
Editor: Michelle Kim

All rights reserved.
Published under license from partners.
Translation and localization produced by